

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6892

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEOBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

FUJQLM/EMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE 529

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1567

PARIS FOR MURPHY

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION: SITREP 5

SUMMARY. INFOTCHAD PUBLISHES NEWS OF FIGHTING
AT SALAL. ARADA FALLS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CONFIRMS INCREASED
FRENCH SUPPORT FOR GOC. NEW DEMONSTRATION REPORTED IN
SOUTH.

1. INFOTCHADEDITIONS OF APRIL 20 AND 21 EACH CARRIE

ARTICLES REPORTING FIGHTING BETWEEN GOC AND FROLINAT
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FORCES AT SALAL. FIRST OF TWO MENTIONS SAM-9, LONG RANGE
CANNON AND RADAR AS PART OF ENEMY ARSENAL. SECOND
COMMUNIQUE PUTS GOVERNMENT LOSSES AT FIVE DEAD AND
EIGHT WOUNDED, BUT STATES GOC TROOPS WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE
FROLINAT DEFENSES AND NEUTRALIZE COMMAND POST. FRENCH
AMBASSADOR DALLIER TODAY CONFIRMED TO CHARGE THAT
REBELS STILL HOLDSALAL AND HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES. HE

PLACES ENEMY LOSSES AT ABOUT 100 AND SAYS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT 20 CASUALTIES ON GOVERNMENT SIDE INCLUDING TWO FRENCHMANAD AND SEVERAL WOUNDED.

2. THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED INFORMATION WE HAD REPORTED PREVIOUSLY THAT FRENCH FEEL GOUKOUNI HAS COMMITTED ABOUT ONE-THIRD HIS FORCES AT SALAL AND THAT FRENCH MILITARY ARE DETERMINED TO CRUSH THEM. THE FIGHTING HAS BEEN EXTREMELY INTENSE AND CASUALTIES WERE PARTICULARLY HIGH ON APRIL 19, SO THAT TYEX FOLLOWING DAY ATTACKING GOVERNMENT UNITS WERE ROTATED BACK TO MOUSSORO AND REPLACED WITH FRESH TROOPS. NO PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN YET BECAUSE THE SALAL FIGHT IS LARGELY AN ARMORED CAMPAIGN. GOC FORCES HAVE LOST ONE AML WHICH WAS BLOWN UP BEFORE IT COULD BE CAPTURED. DALLIER CONFIRMED THE INFOTCHAD STATEMENT ON RADAR, CLAIMING THAT A HIGH FLYING RECONNAISSANCE PLANE SEVERAL DAYS AGO HAD PICKED UP THREE RADAR FLASHES IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION BELOW THE PLANE.

3. AMBASSADOR DALLIER ALSO CONFIRMED REPORTS WE HAVE HEARD FROM FRENCH MEDIA AND USDAO/PARIS OF INCREASED FRENCH SUPPORT FOLLOWING SESSION OF COHCEILRESTREINT CHAIRED BY GISCARD. HE STATES THAT NUMBER OF TROOPS ARRIVING WILL COMPRISE ONLY TWO COMPANIES, OR APPROXIMATELY 350 MEN, SOME OF WHOM ARE HERE ALREADY. CONFIDENTIAL

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TOTAL OF NEW ARRIVIALS IN LAST THREE MONTHS IS NOW 500, WHICH IS OVER AND ABOVE 350 FRENCH MILITARY ADVISORS TRADITIONALLY STATIONED HERE IN SUPPORT, SUPPLY AND TEACHING FUNCTIONS. DRLLIER SAYS THAT FRENCH FORCES ARE TOO SMALL TO REPLY TO EVERY REBEL ATTACK AND ARE BEING CONCENTRATED IN THE WESTERN (NDJAMENA) SECTOR.

4. GOC OUTPOST AT ARADA FELL EITHER LATE THURSDAY OR EARLY FRIDAY WITH APPROXIMATELY 100 CHADIANS TAKEN PRISONER. NO FRENCH OFFICES WERE INVOLVED. THERE IS NOW NO KNOWN FIGHTING IN EAST OF COUNTRY BUT EVACUATIO OF EUROPEANS FROM ABECHÉ WAS FORCERED BY DALLIER ON RECOMMENDATION GENERAL HUGUET TO PERMIT FRENCH FORCES STATIONED THERE OPPOSE ATTACK EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. AMBASSADOR DALLIER ALSO SUBSTANTIATED WHAT WE LEARNED YESTERDAY FROM OTHER SOURCES CONCERNING CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE SOUTH. THE MOST SERIOUS OF THESE WAS AT PALA WHERE A GROUP OF MOUNDANG STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND ONE STUDENT WAS SHOT.

HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT AN ARREST HAD BEEN MADE AMONG THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LOCAL MAYO-KEBI ASSOCIATION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES. IT IS POSSIBLE WE WILL NOW SEE FURTHER ETHNIC DEMONSTRATIONS CLOSER TO HOME AS VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS FEEL THE TIME IS RIPE TO PURSUE THEIR COMPETING CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOC.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LOSSES MAY BE SIGNIFICANT, IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND FRENCH FORCES ARE WILLING TO UP THE STAKES TO WHATEVER DEGREE IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE VICTORY AT SALAL. IF SO, THIS SHOULD ELIMINATE 400 OF THE 200-1500 MEN AVAILABLE TO THE GOUKOUNI HEADED REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL WHICH WAS FORMED THREE WEEKS AGO. THE QUESTION MJK WHICH REMAINS ON THE IMMEDIATE HORIZON IS WHAT HAPPENS TO HISSEN HABRE. WILL HIS 300
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TO 400 MEN TAKE THE 700 RIFLES THEY WERE GIVEN RECENTLY BY THE GOC AND JOIN FROLINAT FORCES OR WILL THEY RESPECT THEIR AGREEMENT TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT? THIS COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN DECIDING THE OUTCOME IN EASTERN CHAD. DALSIMER

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